



Manassas Connection

October 2015

Welcome to the City of Manassas

Have you met the new Deputy City Manager yet? He started Sept. 14, 2015. His name is Bryan Foster and he was selected from a highly qualified pool of applicants.

Bryan and his wife, come to the City of Manassas from Portsmouth, Virginia. Bryan will oversee Public Works and Utilities for the City of Manassas.

Bryan's experience prior to being hired by the City of Manassas includes, County Administrator, Town Manager, and Director of Municipal Services. He has a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of William and Mary. He is an ICMA Credential Manager.

"Bryan's background makes him a perfect fit for our community," said City Manager William Patrick Pate. "He has served in many roles in local government and I know the City will benefit from his expertise."



Voting Information

- Tuesday, Oct. 13 - Last Day to Register to Vote
- Saturday, Oct. 24 - Voter Registration Office open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for Absentee Voting
- Tuesday, Oct. 27 - Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot by mail
- Saturday, Oct. 31 - Voter Registration Office open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Absentee Voting. *Last Day to Vote Absentee In-Person*
- Tuesday, Nov. 3 - Election Day. Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit www.manassascity.org/vote or call (703) 257-8230 for more information.

Why are we getting new meters?

In the City of Manassas water and electric meters are aging and need to be replaced by newer, more eco-friendly technology. After a successful pilot in the Point of Woods East/Lakeside area, the City of Manassas has started to fully replace the aging meters throughout the City with the Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system.

What does this mean for the City and our customers?

The new AMI meters are part of a "smart grid" which enables the City to retrieve usage data and lay the groundwork to help predict and prevent most failures in the systems. This means

more reliability and accuracy for our customers.

The City's electric utility rates continue to be among the lowest in Virginia. Reliability of the city's utilities remains at 99.99 percent, but keeping this reliability high requires continuous upgrades and innovative thinking. This new AMI system helps to accomplish that reliability. Residents are being notified a few days prior to the meter installation, as there is a short, three-minute power interruption to your service as the meters are replaced and a 10-minute interruption of water service as the water meter is changed.

The Utilities Department asks that residents who are scheduled to receive the meters, unlatch any gates and place pets inside during the installation. There is no need for customers to be home during the installation. If you are scheduled for replacement, be sure to unplug any computers or sensitive electronics so that the three-minute power interruption does not damage them.

Thank you for your patience as we work to make a better, more reliable utilities system for you, our customers.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

If you park in the City's Historic Downtown area, you may have seen some parking sign changes. This is the result of citizen recommendations gained from an online survey of residents and visitors, and the parking task force made up of residents, businesses and city staff. Various improvements are already underway, including at City Hall and the Parking Garage. Some changes of note include:

- Daytime public parking in the garage has been moved from Levels 4 & 5 to Level 2 for customer convenience. Level 2 will have both four-hour free parking and all day paid parking. The entire garage remains free and open to the public on evenings and weekends and after 10 a.m. on weekdays.

- Permanent closure of the Journal Messenger Lot (Lot I) for public use.
- Additional public and downtown employee/resident parking at City Hall.
- Lengthened hours for public parking at the Manassas Museum and City Hall.
- Additional four-hour public parking in the Water Tower Lot (Lot B).

When all of the changes are put in place, parking will be more streamlined. Parking lots on the north side of the railroad tracks and all on-street parking will have a two-hour time limitation. On the south side of the railroad tracks, near Prince William Street, public parking lots will have a four-hour time limitation. All permit and time restrictions will cease at 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Red Permit commuter restrictions that will end at 10 a.m. The garage is open for parking in the evenings and on weekends.

Parking garage changes were made in an effort to allow those patronizing our restaurants and businesses a prime garage parking location where they can walk out on the main level of the garage. VRE riders gained additional parking in the upper section of the garage in return.

As always, certain parking lots and on-street parking may be closed for special events or street cleaning. Always

read the posted signs before leaving your vehicle.

For more information on the Parking Task Force, visit www.manassascity.org/parkingTF. For more information on parking permits, visit www.manassascity.org/parking.

Also, as a reminder, vehicles must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. As we continue to encourage healthy life styles by walking and pedestrian friendly events in our community, we will have more people walking along our streets and in the crosswalks. If we act like good neighbors and stop for pedestrians, others driving through town will also get the message to be neighborly as well.

I look forward to seeing you parking and walking in the City of Manassas.



A Note About Parking from the Chief of Police

The City of Manassas has various parking locations on public streets, parking lots and in the parking garage that are available to our residents and visitors. These locations and their restrictions can be found at www.manassascity.org/parking. The VRE parking requirements, permits that are required in certain parking lots and a map of downtown parking locations are all available there.

As a reminder, residents are not permitted to park recreational vehicles, boats and trailers (personal camping or commercial/work) on City streets for more than 48 hours. These parking regulations are necessary to improve line of sight safety issues and reduce the visual

impact of unattended trailers and vehicles left on City streets for extended periods of time. This regulation also provides more on-street parking spaces for cars.

The most common parking violations that are encountered by the Manassas City Police are for vehicles that are parked on a public street and not moved for more than 48 hours, commercial vehicles that are parked in residential areas and vehicles parked on a public street with expired license plate decals.

If you have questions or parking concerns, please contact our Parking Enforcement staff at (703) 257-8198 or Lt. Bill Hutchinson at (703) 257-8027.



Chief of Police
Douglas W. Keen

RecycleFest2 is November 7

Come Celebrate RecycleFest2 at the Manassas Transfer Station.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015, the City of Manassas and Waste Management will host RecycleFest2, to celebrate Manassas Recycles Day and raise awareness of the importance of recycling household hazardous waste and electronic items.

Last year, City of Manassas residents dropped off more than 20 tons of

recyclable hazardous waste items including televisions, cleaning products, paint and pesticides in just four hours! Come dispose of your household hazardous waste, electronic waste and shredding for FREE on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road, Manassas, VA 20110.

More Recycling News

City of Manassas residents generate more than 2,700 tons of recycling every year. In a recent visit to the American Disposal Recycling Center, the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Solid Waste discovered that there's more in there than just plastic bottles. Many residents are putting plastic carrier bags, used diapers, and even clothing into their recycling carts and it's creating a problem.

"Each day the recycling center must shut down the machinery for two hours

to remove plastic bags that wrap around the machinery. The operation cost to shut down is \$130 per minute," said plant manager, Jim Langmier.

Roughly 25 tons of the 400 tons of materials sent to the recycling center every day is not recyclable material and is sent to the landfill. Residents can help improve recycling by sticking to the basics: plastic containers, cans and paper. Please do not put plastic carrier bags in with your recycling.



Artfully Manassas

Have you heard about some of the art projects going on in the City? Have you seen the "little bits" of art in Historic Downtown? If you like art or feel you have an artistic flair, then here are some things you may want to look into:

- **Local Pride Ornament Contest:** The Governor's office is asking localities to send an ornament for their tree. We thought we would make it a contest for the community. All ornaments will be displayed in City Hall with the winning ornament sent on for the Governor's state tree. Ornaments are due to Patty Prince, 4th floor of City Hall by Oct. 20, 2015. A list of rules is available at www.manassascity.org.
- **Banner Art Contest:** It is the second year for the City's Banner Art Contest. If you are or know of an artist who would like to compete to have their artwork on a banner hung in the City, then this is the
- **competition for you.** 60 banners grace the Historic Downtown area of the City. Each piece of art is an original piece created just for this competition. To enter this year's competition, visit visitmanassas.org/artful-manassas.
- **Banner Art People's Choice Award:** The 2015 People's Choice Award for the Banner Art Contest is ongoing through Oct. 30. If you haven't yet voted, take a moment to stop by the Manassas Visitor's Center (in the train depot) and pick up a brochure and vote. It's that easy.
- **Little Bits:** Little Bits of art are popping up all over Historic Downtown Manassas. These are laying the groundwork for the City to attract artists from across the region to express their creativity using public infrastructure and private buildings as their canvass. Learn more about it at visitmanassas.org/artful-manassas.

Lights...Camera... Christmas!

The Greater Manassas Christmas Parade Committee is looking for nominations for Grand Marshall and Man or Woman of the year.

Nominations should be submitted with a short bio and reason why the individual warrants consideration. The nominations can be submitted on the parade's website: www.gmchristmasparade.org or Facebook.

Applications to participate in the 70th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade are open until Oct. 23, 2015.

The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during October and November.

Thru October - Thursdays and Fridays at noon - **Historic Downtown walking tours**
www.manassasmuseum.org

October 2, 5 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown
www.visitmanassas.org

October 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - **33rd Annual Fall Jubilee** in Historic Downtown
www.visitmanassas.org

October 5 - **Personal Property Tax** is due.
www.manassascity.org/taxes

October 8 & 9 at 7 p.m., Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. - **Diary of Anne Frank**, Osbourn High School
www.osbourntheatre.com

October 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - City of Manassas **Utilities Open House** at 8500 Public Works Drive.
www.manassascity.org



October 10 at 2 p.m. - **Architectural Tour** of Historic Downtown by the Manassas Museum.
www.visitmanassas.org

October 10, 7 - 11 p.m. - Freedom Museum **Hangar Dance**.
www.freedommuseum.org

October 11, 2 - 3p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Unionists in Virginia** with author Lawrence M. Denton at the Manassas Museum
www.visitmanassas.org

October 13 at 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker
www.manassasmuseum.org

October 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. - **Walk to End Alzheimer's** at the Harris Pavilion
www.visitmanassas.org

October 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Free VIN etching** in the Target Parking Lot - 9900 Sowder Village Square.

October 19 at 5:30 p.m. - Manassas City Police swearing-in and promotions ceremony at City Hall.

October 23 - 25 - **Jazz in Motion** - Manassas Ballet Theatre's original production.
www.manassasballet.org

October 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - **Haunted Happenings** in Historic Downtown - Come out dressed in your best costume for games and trick-or-treating
www.visitmanassas.org

October 24 at 9 a.m. - **Bike Tour** of the City
www.visitmanassas.org

October 24 at 6:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. - **Spirits of Manassas Tours** given by the Manassas Museum
www.visitmanassas.org



October 25 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Three Days in the Shenandoah** at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

October 30 at 8 p.m. - **Manassas Cemetery Tour**

www.visitmanassas.org

October 31 at 8:30 a.m. - **Blue Jay 5K and Hero Mile** in memory of Officer Philip Michael Pennington.

www.penningtonbluejay5k.com

November 1 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **The Virginia Presidents** at the Manassas Museum
www.visitmanassas.org

November 6, 6 - 9 p.m. - **Fall Gallery Walk** in Historic Downtown
www.visitmanassas.org

November 6 & 7 - **Veteran's Day Commemoration** at the Manassas Museum during First Friday and after the Veteran's Day Parade.

www.visitmanassas.org

November 6 & 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Novant Health Prince William Medical Center **Annual Holiday Bazaar**. Medical Building 1, fourth floor conference rooms

November 7, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Manassas Senior Center Annual Bazaar** - Jewelry, crafts, food and more.

November 7 at 11 a.m. - **Greater Manassas Veterans Day Parade**

www.vetpar.org

November 10 at 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker
www.visitmanassas.org

November 22 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Early Morning of War: Bull Run 1861** at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
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City of Manassas School Board

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Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.

www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas

www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas

www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas

Put your own photos up at
www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas.

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email prrince@ci.manassas.va.us.